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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,840	12/01/2006	Giacinto Zilioli	3687-179 (AMK)	3335
23117 7590 04/27/2009 NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203				
EXAMINER				
LARKIN, DANIEL SEAN				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2856				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/27/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/591,840

Applicant(s)

ZILIOLI, GIACINTO

Examiner

DANIEL S. LARKIN

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 September 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 21 January 2009
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description:

Reference letter "J", as shown in Figure 1, does not appear within the written specification.

Reference numerals "1", "2", and "3", as shown in Figure 1, do not appear within the written specification.

2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the Applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 5, lines 20, 22, and 24: The phrase "definition of" should be corrected to read -- defining --.

Page 5, lines 21 and 23: The "period" should be replaced with a -- semicolon --.

Page 5, line 25: The "period" should be replaced with a -- semicolon -- and the conjunction -- and --.

Page 5, line 26: The phrase "activation of" should be corrected to read -- activating --.

Page 6, line 6: The term "acquisition" should be corrected to read -- acquiring --.

Page 9, line 20: Reference numeral "1" should be corrected to read -- GC1 --.

Page 9, line 21: Reference numeral "2" should be corrected to read -- GC2 --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1 and 3-11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claim 1, claim line 4: The phrase "the automatic samples" lacks antecedent basis.

Re claim 3, claim lines 2 and 3: The phrase "said two or more independent data systems" lacks antecedent. Claim 1 has previously recited at least two independent data systems.

Re claim 8, claim lines 4, 6, and 8: The phrase "definition of" should be corrected

to read -- defining --.

Re claim 8, claim line 10: The phrase "activation of" should be corrected to read -- activating --.

Re claim 9, claim line 3: The term "acquisition" should be corrected to read -- acquiring --.

Re claim 10, claim line 3: The phrase "the code" lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

The prior art to US 5,668,735 (Dominguez et al.) discloses a method and apparatus for continuous emissions monitoring system using gas chromatography, whereby a plurality of columns are provided within individual computers to control operation of the column. The reference fails to recite, however, at least two of more independent data system for control/management of the automatic sampler in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

The prior art to JP 2002-340876 (Saito et al.) disclose a multiple liquid chromatograph comprising an automatic sampler passing a samples to a plurality of columns controlled by a single computer. Again, the prior art fails to teach at least two of more independent data system for control/management of the automatic sampler in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

6. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

See above paragraphs 1-4.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213, (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL S. LARKIN whose telephone number is (571)272-2198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on 571-272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel S. Larkin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2856
23 April 2009